

TRAINING HAND AND HEAD

Defects in Present System of Public School Education.

TRADE SCHOOLS A NECESSITY

Middle West Woolly Backward in Providing Facilities for Practical Life Work of Children.

Addressing the convention of the State Teachers' association, when in session last month, President E. Holovchikner of the Omaha Board of Education spoke in part as follows:

"America is one of the countries where compulsory education is a fixed law, and there is no going back on it never. If anything, we are going further in the matter and are prolonging and widening the compulsion, fixing the minimum of school attendance at a higher age.

"But how is our law enforced? Do we live up to the letter of the law as the framers intended us to do? Let us analyze and see.

"We have in the United States about 35,000,000 children of school age. Of this number 20,000,000, or 57 per cent, are enrolled in the public and private schools. Of these only 14,000,000, or 38 per cent, are in daily attendance. In other words, 11,000,000 children, or 31 per cent, are either incapacitated from attending schools or neglectfully running in the streets, instead of attending classes. These figures are not fictitious, but official. They are given out by the United States commissioner of education.

"In Germany less than 1 per cent of the total number of children are not in school, and 81 per cent are legally kept away from school. In England and Wales, conditions are as deplorable as in the United States. Out of 20,000,000, 1,500,000, or 7.5 per cent, are attending neither day nor night schools. The reports from Canada show no better conditions. The compulsory education law is not rigidly enforced.

"But the expenditure of the vast amount of money for educational purposes is constantly going on, no matter whether we have the full quota of children in schools or not. The United States in 1909 spent \$400,000,000 for education of children in our elementary schools.

Is the Money Wasted?

"Now let us see what we achieve for the vast fortunes spent by the taxpayers for the education of the children in the secondary schools or high schools. From statistics we gather that in America no more than 70 per cent are entering our secondary or high schools. About 20 per cent are lost, strayed and not found after graduating from the grades. Now why do we lose so many children from our primary schools? Is it the fault of our educational system, or are there other causes responsible for the deplorable state of affairs?

"I think that after studying the conditions we must admit that both the educational system and other influences are responsible for the conditions prevailing. But economic conditions in the country are such that it is not the lack of professionals from which we are suffering, but we are short of hands to conduct our industries which are growing enormously. There is a famine of skilled mechanics of every variety, and the few that we have are not proficient enough to compete with the foreign skilled mechanics. The development of our industries, the creating of high grade productive enterprises, demand intelligent workers in large numbers, and where are we to obtain them? The growing interest, and the increasing literature on vocational training, indicates a new attitude in the training of our youth.

One-Third Untrained.

"The 70 per cent of our children who graduate from our public schools, and are entering the academic high school, are well provided for future demands. But how about the 30 per cent who do not continue their education, and are lost to the community because they are either not fit for academic work, or have no desire or means to continue the academic education for which the high school is preparing them? It is evident that we must provide some vehicle by which to give them the kind of instruction they most require and which will meet the economic conditions. We must devise a plan whereby the work in the elementary schools shall be to train the hand as well as the mind. In order to meet this requirement, manual training was installed. But is it a complete success? Does it remedy conditions? Do we have a better attendance? Do more children attend school on fewer drop out? I am sorry to say the results are not such as to brag about. I never was enthused with the manual training course as it is taught in our graded schools. I was always of the impression that the results hardly justified the expenditures.

Manual Training.

"Manual training, which was introduced in our schools a decade and a half ago, had this ultimate training in view, but like any other innovation it had to be experimented with, and go through the process of evolution by stages until the scheme has gradually perfected and developed itself into a system which stands out prominently in our educational world today in the form of vocational schools.

Needful Helps.

"Which academic courses should be offered the boys, how to divide the periods, what methods to apply, the length of the school day, all these things should be left to the educators, or superintendent of instruction in each locality. We will bump up against the same obstacle as we do in the grade school, although not to such an extent, and that is, transfer or dropping out before the completion of the course. Laws will have to be provided to prohibit shops from taking in boys before they are through with school, or labor unions should refuse the boy admission to the ranks of the union, unless he has a certificate of his completion in the vocational school.

Some fear is expressed that technical or trade schools will in a measure lead to the abandoning of the academic work. I think there is absolutely no occasion for alarm. In the first place, academic work should never be excluded. On the contrary, it should be insisted upon, only in a different way. These schools should not be looked upon as a refuge, or as an asylum for mentally deficient. Brains are as necessary for trade work as for professional, and industrial students should be cultured as well as students in academic high schools. As President Eliot said: 'If a man practices blacksmithing studiously, or agriculture thoughtfully, he is getting culture.'

Doubt has also been expressed as to securing pupils for these schools. I think

that all such doubt will be dispelled by investigating the number of technical schools now in existence and the growing demand for them all over this country and the world at large. On my recent visit to the east for the purpose of investigating the technical high schools, I was astounded to find the number of technical schools in operation, and the additional number in the course of construction. In Chicago they are adding two gigantic technical high schools to the number already established. The same condition I found in Buffalo, Detroit and Cleveland. In the latter city, industrial education is at its zenith. No city in the United States is doing as much for industrial education as Cleveland, and the demand is growing to such an extent there, that the new West Technical High school, which is only two years old, finds itself inadequate to accommodate the applicants.

Signs of the Times.

"Take our own little industrial school here in Omaha, which is only an experiment. We fitted up a school with two rooms for about twenty deficient boys. Forty normal boys have already applied, and next year I venture to say 200 will knock at the door of our little industrial school house, and this little school is not a high school either. It is intended for boys up to and including the eighth grade. I predict that if Omaha should establish a technical high school today, we would have 1,000 pupils in it at the end of its first year. Our academic schools take up about 40 per cent of all the children who graduate from elementary schools. Sixty per cent are lost to us and a good many of the 60 per cent would flock to a technical high school, if we had one. They have no desire to enter the academic high school, do not relish our commercial courses, and would undoubtedly take to trades, if the opportunity were offered them in a public technical high school.

"Technical high schools are needed in this country and are needed badly. Germany, which ranks higher than any other country in the world for its schools, universities, academies, etc., is also leading with its industrial schools. It is abundantly supplied with them, and its mechanics are recognized the world over for their skill, culture and intelligence. In Sweden, industrial or technical education is likewise a prominent feature, and its mechanics rank among the highest in the old world. No wonder that the foreign mechanic is given preference in this country before the American.

"I think we in Nebraska are a good many years behind in this branch of education for our boys and girls. Comparing Omaha and Nebraska with other cities and states in the union, we find that the east and the extreme west are full of technical schools, with hardly a city of any importance that does not have at least one technical high school. But the middle west, and especially Nebraska, is painfully neglectful in this branch of education.

Model Technical School.

"The Cleveland Technical High school in my judgment is the model of any technical school in the world. The predominant idea is to train boys for the industrial end of it, and girls to make them good housewives, intelligent mothers and useful women. The course in the Cleveland Technical High school for girls is elaborate. The girls are taught house-keeping, to sweep, clean and make beds. Laundry for the modern type of washing where the girls are taught to wash scientifically. Before she is put to the wash tub, she must take one-half year in chemistry, so as not to ruin the clothes, as it is done in our steam laundries. Cooking is also taught scientifically. Sewing, dressmaking, millinery work, etc., are the chief subjects of the training. The boy pupils are specialized in pattern making, cabinet making, forging, foundry, machine shop, drafting, machine design, architectural drawing, structural drawing, electrical construction, chemistry, printing, designing, applied art, automobile repairing and agriculture.

"Now, I am no educator; I make no pretense to being one; in fact, I am a physician by profession, but knowing the value of education in the struggle for life, I am vitally interested in the advancement of education in this country. I would like to see this land of ours lead the world in education, as it does in other matters, and if in the capacity of a member of the Board of Education I can do my little part to help it along, my mission will have been fulfilled.

"It is up to us as members of the Board of Education to insist that modern and up-to-date methods be applied in our schools, to give our young generation all the opportunities and chances of making good, honorable, intelligent and self-supporting citizens. No expense should be spared in making our schools and educational institutions models to which the world would point as examples. Our schools today are of the highest type, so acknowledged by foreign educators, who are visiting our shores from time to time. But we must not rest content because our schools are on a high plane. There is room for improvement. We are behind and far outdistanced in vocational education in our public schools. This kind of education is holding the center of the stage just now all over the world.

"We in Nebraska must get in the game or we will be outdistanced, outplayed and left behind. Can we afford it? Can we let the procession go by? Nebraska boasts of being among the states where illiteracy is at the lowest ebb, having less illiterates than any state in the union. Can we afford to lag in industrial education? It is up to us as members of the Board of Education to meet this problem in all seriousness and sincerely and remedy what is today the most deficient feature of our educational system. The young generation is demanding it of us and we must give heed to that demand. We must establish technical schools in Nebraska and keep abreast of the times."

MELTING POT OR ICE HOUSE

Queer Ideas Regarding Temperature of Place of Future Punishment.

Many tribes of nations since the world began have had no religious idea at all of a heaven. But there is, perhaps, a well-defined, not to say lurid, notion of hell.

And these ideas of hell-of-hades, of school, of the place of punishment-are as varied as the names it goes by.

Apart from the theory of a burning pit of brimstone full of vomiting, screaming souls, who must burn forever, there have been dozens of others.

Oddly enough, people who live in southern countries have always inclined to a belief in a red-hot hell, while among the Eskimos and other Arctic races the notion of hell is a place of utter and unrelieved cold, where persons who have with difficulty fought off cold throughout their mortal lives must endure horrible icy chills throughout all eternity.

In ancient Egypt hell was painted as a

desert alive with serpents, ghosts and hideous monsters and swayed by intolerable heat and thirst. Every people picking out their own hell the type of place that seemed to them the most unpleasant, and it was but natural that the Egyptian hell should have been a desert, thirsty, hot and snake-strewn.

The Hindus also preached a monstrous hell paved with glowing coals as hot as iron and with pits of boiling oil. A bed of fire and food consisting of molten metal were side features of this.

In Assyria it was believed the souls of sinners lived on dry dust in a black cavern and sometimes flitted back to earth as vampires.

The Chinese believed there were no less than six hells of varying horrors. On the red-hot floor of one of these crawled deadly serpents. The Greeks and Romans told of a dark, gloomy place far under the earth, where sinners performed various wearisome feats, such as baling out the sea with a sieve or forever rolling a huge rock up hill, etc.

Old Omar Khayyam was apparently almost the only man of ancient days to voice so modern a theory as "My soul returned to me and answered, 'I myself am hell and hell'."

The Scandinavians feared an icebound, pitch black region where wolves ravened and serpents stung. The ancient Hebrew writers declared hell was 184,000,000 times as large as this earth-surely a commodious and roomy dwelling place for a whole worldful of sinners, and arranged with the expectation of a large population.

The early English believed in a hell alternately horribly hot and bitter cold-and this before Chicago's climate was known. The Moslems, through the Koran, are told of a hell full of "fiery smoke and smokeless flame," whose inmates shall be dragged into hell by their forelocks and their feet, and there shall be cut out for them garments of fire."

These are but a few of the more vivid and lurid conceptions of a place of torment for evildoers. With such horrors ever before them, it is a wonder all the world's inhabitants were not scared into goodness centuries ago.-New York World.

Trust Company Has Many Relations

The trust company and its relations is a subject concerning which a book could be written. It is surprising, however, that there are no textbooks devoted to this subject. A trust company is a body corporate, personifying all that is ideal in man-of confidence, integrity, justice, honesty and reliability. Primarily its relation is to the confidence of man; and, secondarily to execute the commissions confided in it, for a reasonable profit.

Trust companies are the creatures of modern statutes. They supply a want that has existed from the early ages. Since the time that man first began to accumulate property desire to create trusts or to handle his property through the agency of another, has been dominant. In the past, until the trust company was created by law, in the olden days if a man desired to place his property in trust for another or to bequeath his property for the benefit of some person and not preserve the original investment intact, or otherwise handle his property by means of a trustee, it became necessary for him to select some friend or relation in whom he placed sufficient confidence. Frequently this confidence was misplaced; the friend was not always worthy of trust, and, then, too, the friend died, thereby vacating the trust and requiring the appointment of a successor through other means. In other instances the friend would misapply the fund, appropriating them to his own use, and otherwise betray his trust; and the property having been wasted, the purpose of the trust imposed upon him would fail, and the friend not being financially responsible, the property thus entrusted to him might never be recovered.

In some the trust company is an incorporated friend, stripped, as nearly as carefully as rigid law can, of the possibility of the betrayal of the trust or the loss of the property entrusted to it. Thus it is that the state of Nebraska, through the wisdom of its lawmakers, has safeguarded the interest of the man who places his confidence in a trust company, not alone by double reliability upon the company, but by frequent audits of the company's condition by the state auditor; and, too, by defining by law, specifically and plainly, the powers, duties and obligations to this class of corporations.

GIVING THE LAWYERS A RUN

Pittsburgh Churches Asked to Discipline Members Who Take Liquor Cases.

Rev. George W. Shelton, chairman of the Union committee on temperance of the Protestant churches of the Pittsburgh district, sent letters to the ministers of 46 churches asking them to have their church law on the subject of liquor selling enforced against lawyers. The letters were read from the pulpits of the great majority of these churches Sunday morning.

Lawyers, who represent saloon keepers in their applications for licenses and who are members of churches may be deprived of their membership. It is proposed that the church law shall be enforced, and at least half a dozen prominent members of the bar are likely to be "churched" unless they consent to refrain from this kind of practice. It is proposed to deal leniently with them at first, and if they wish to avoid the notoriety of a church trial, all they will have to do will be to give their word to keep out of license court.

It was not generally known until the present religious upheaval inaugurated just how far the church law goes in its outlawry of the liquor business. According to the discipline of the Presbyterian church any member who signs an application for license, gives a bond for a liquor dealer, owns stock in a brewery or distillery, or as attorney represents a liquor dealer in securing a license, may be disciplined. A case has recently been decided by the general assembly, the highest authority of the Presbyterian church, in which a member appealed against his church session for not doing its duty in this respect and was sustained, and the Presbytery having jurisdiction of the matter instructed to have it attended to.-Pittsburgh Dispatch.

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TIMELY REAL ESTATE GOSSIP

Horn Clears \$10,000 in Two and One-Half Years.

ON OLD PAT FORD PROPERTY

Many Investors in Omaha Have Ready Money, but All Are on the Lookout for Soft Snaps.

The safety of investment in real estate in Omaha's business district is nowhere perhaps better illustrated than in the case of Nathan Horn, who two and a half years ago bought of Harry Wolf the old Pat Ford property at Tenth and Davenport streets for \$15,000. When Wolf appeared for luncheon at the meeting of the Real Estate exchange that day and told of the deal the members accused him of being a sinner for selling property so high to his own personal friend.

"Where do you expect to go when you die?" they asked him. "How can you do those things to your own friends?" Horn had confidence in Omaha property and he held tight. That was just two and one-half years ago. In the meantime property has increased in value. The wholesale district has been filling up more and more. The produce commission houses became crowded for room. Then came the day when Horn turned the property over.

The Jerome Commission company needed ground for a new location. In casting about it found this property and wanted it. It had the money and was willing to pay the price. It did not take long. And when the deal was closed Horn had cleared \$5,000 on the sale, to say nothing of the \$2,000 he had received in rent in something over two years.

Investors Out for Snaps. "Everybody is looking for a snap in real estate just now," said a real estate dealer. "There is scarcely a snap to be had in the city. I find any amount of buyers who have from \$5,000 to \$15,000 of ready money to invest, but they still are hard to make a deal with because they are looking for snaps. They find plenty of property that is worth the money, but they hold back, for they are looking for something that is worth a great deal more than is asked for it. They are all looking for something that will clear them a few thousand in a year or two."

This is the complaint of a great many real estate men at the present time. They hold that money has been made so readily in Omaha real estate in the last few years and in fact for a considerable time, that many buyers are in the field, but that they are more and more beginning to look for a sure snap, one about which there cannot be the shadow of a doubt. The fact that a few of the holder spirits in the past years have made large sums of money by plucking in and taking a chance has fired the imaginations of a lot of other would-be speculators who have not quite the kidney of a real plunger, and consequently would like to have someone sell them a place and give a guarantee of sudden increase with the deed.

Benson & Carmichael announce that Montclair, the new addition which they are getting ready for the market, between Cuming and Hamilton and Twenty-ninth and Thirty-third streets, is now developed sufficiently so that an intelligent idea can be formed of what it will look like when entirely finished. Over 200,000 yards of earth have been moved, transforming the old Creighton farm into a beautiful addition.

The work being done on this addition is along the lines approved by the Civic Improvement league, which is that all property and streets be put to grade when platted so that purchasers will be assured when buying that no changes of grade will be made later, resulting in damage to their property.

Reasonable restrictions as to cost of houses, etc., will be placed on the entire addition, thus assuring all purchasers of a high class neighborhood. At the same time there is to be a wide range of prices for the lots, so that those with limited means also will be eligible.

Cement walks are to be laid in all streets. A part of these are now in. A complete system of city water and sewer is now being installed throughout the entire tract. Every lot will have sewer, water and cement walks without future special taxes to the buyer.

This is one of the first close-in additions to be platted in the last twenty years. It joins Benning park on the east. It is a twelve-minute ride from Sixteenth and Farnam streets and is served by two car lines.

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